

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

DD/S&T 3205-64

26 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

SUBJECT: Cataloging of R&D Projects

STAT 1. In connection with the activities of the Research and Development Board, I asked [] last spring to attempt to construct a framework in which all CIA R&D projects could be logically placed. It was hoped that such an organization would place the entire effort in better perspective and provide a basis for useful discussion in the R&D Board. Ed found this a difficult job but made some progress before he left. Representatives of O/BPAM took a lively interest in this activity, as it gave a prospectus for analyzing the R&D budget proposals of the four Directorates in a common structure. Since that time, O/BPAM has asked our help in continuing and enlarging such a program. NIPE has indicated that information about all CIA R&D programs is needed to effect community coordination of such projects.

2. This train of events and its implications has been discussed at several meetings of the R&D Board. The reaction to such a cataloging has been increasingly negative. I believe that this is based on two factors: (a) It has now become clear to all members of the Board that no effective coordination of R&D activities is likely to be authorized, either by the DD/S&T or the Board, and that they have only sovereignty to lose by contributing to such analysis; and (b) a genuine anxiety that such information will be used by NIPE or other elements of the CIA engaged in community coordination as "trading stamps" in what will probably be a unilateral or unproductive exchange. The members of the Board believe that DOD has little to offer and much to gain in such an exchange, especially DIA, which so far is purely a middleman in such activities. The clandestine components are sensitive to the dispersal potential of such consolidated lists, especially if they should be provided to DOD, etc., by higher authority. A traditional safeguard against such philanthropy has been not to create them.

3. My purpose in setting these considerations down is to call your attention and that of the DDCI to the general attitude toward the creation of a consolidated R&D digest. Until one can be quite precise about its potential use and dissemination, one can expect considerable opposition. For my own part, such a listing is of no value to the DD/S&T unless it is to play the coordinating role in R&D originally discussed in July, 1963. Certainly we would prefer to carry on our own R&D relationship with relevant elements of DOD through established channels rather than through brokerage firms armed with such information. I believe that we should proceed no further until we can establish the proposed boundaries and hoist the four Directorates aboard.

(s) A. D. Wheelon